GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2101
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
MAIZE PRODUCTION
ARUN KUMAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people are suffering from malnutrition and anaemia the deficiency of which can be checked by quality protein maize; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to boost the production of maize in the country, particularly in Bihar?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): As per surveys conducted by National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (1999 report), the prevalence of malnutrition is as under:-

Children

Category of malnutrition	1-5 yrs.	6-9 yrs	10-13 yrs	14-17 yrs
Mild	40.6%	31.4%	16.6%	25.5%
Moderate	44.3%	54.7%	52.0%	52.6%
Severe	6.2%	8.4%	28.7%	18.9%

Adults (measured as Body Mass Index)

	Males	Females
Chronic energy deficiency	45.5%	47.7%
Overweight	4.1%	6.0%

The National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99) indicates the prevalence of anaemic as 51.8% amongst women and 74.3% in children (6-35 months).

Quality Protein Maize (QPM) is an effective measure to meet quality protein needs and raise the human nutritional status. Enhanced levels of essential amino acids (tryptophan and lysine) in QPM hybrids and their net protein utilization are comparable qualitatively to milk or egg protein leading to improved biological value. Diversified uses of QPM is one of the ways towards making a significant positive impact on health status and tackling malnutrition problem in our country

(b): Accelerated Maize Development programme (AMDP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), is being implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture since 1995-96 in the country with the objective to increase the production & productivity of maize. All the maize potential districts in 26 States including Bihar are covered under this programme.

To boost the production of Quality Protein Maize (QPM) in the country, two hybrids viz; Shaktiman-1 and Shaktiman-2, having yield potential of 7-8 tonnes per hectare in Kharif and 9-10 tonnes per hectare in Rabi, have been released for cultivation in Bihar for both the seasons. For developing appropriate varieties, production & protection technologies in the country, 28 centres of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on maize are working across the country including two centres viz; Dholi and Agwanpur in Bihar. Directorate of Maize Research has also established a seed production unit at Kushmahut, Begusarai for meeting the seed

requirement for the entire country including Bihar